

SELF-ADJUSTING BIT RATE TRANSDUCER
IN OPTICAL TRANSMISSION SYSTEM

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

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This application makes reference to, incorporates the same herein, and claims all benefits accruing under 35 U.S.C. Section 119 from an application for "SELF-HEALING BIT RATE TRANSDUCER IN OPTICAL TRANSMISSION SYSTEM," filed earlier in the Korean Industrial Property Office on May 26, 2000 and there duly assigned Serial No. 2000-28076.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to an optical transmission system, and more particularly to a self-healing bit rate transducer in an optical cross-connection device.

2. Description of the Related Art

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In general, diverse protocols and bit rates can be employed in an optical transmission system. Some examples of such protocols includes the fiber distributed data interface (FDDI), the enterprise system connectivity (ESCON), the optical fiber channel, Ethernet, the asynchronous transfer mode (ATM), etc., and their bit rates are 124Mb/s,

155Mb/s, 200Mb/s, 622Mb/s, 1062Mb/s, 1.25Gb/s, 2.5Gb/s, respectively.

A single protocol and bit rate are typically employed for each of above protocols in an optical transmission system, and the bit rate of an optical signal is pre-set in such a system. Hence, an optical receiver installed in a transmitter or a terminal, etc. is typically designed to exclusively meet the pre-set protocol and the bit rate. Typically, systems for transmitting digital data, especially on an optical link, the quality of transmission depends largely on the performance of the transmitter and the receiver.

Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating an optical cross-connection device (OXR) employing an electric switch according to the conventional art system. Referring to Fig. 1, the conventional OXR includes a demultiplexer (DEMUX) 106 for demultiplexing inputted optical signals according different channels and for outputting the same; a plurality of photo-electric transducers 102 with a steady bit rate for transducing an optical signal outputted from the DEMUX 106 into the corresponding electric signal; an OXR switch 103 for pass-routing and outputting the electric signal inputted from the plurality of optical transducers 102 at a steady bit rate; a plurality of electro-optic transducers 104 with a steady bit rate for transducing the electric signals outputted from each output port of the OXR 103 into the corresponding optical signals and for outputting the same; and, a multiplexer 107 for multiplexing the optical signals 105 outputted from the plurality of electro-optic transducers 104 at a steady bit rate through a single optical fiber and outputting the same. Here, the OXR switch 103 is controlled by a controller 108.

As the OXR device in the conventional optical transmission system houses the photo-electric transducer (optical receiver) at a steady bit rate and the electro-optic transducer (optical transmitter) at a steady bit rate, the connection is performed under a predetermined type of steady transmission format. This means that the OXR device in the conventional optical transmission system lacks adaptability to the variation in the transmission format and the varying bit rate. Hence, the limitation of a cross connection capability only in a steady data network poses a problem in multiple transmission and network management.

A co-pending US patent application number 09/621,009 filed earlier by the same applicant on July 20, 2000, entitled "Method and Device for Optical Receiving Not Relying on a Bit rate, discloses the construction of a transduction for informing the bit rate using only a data DC level value. In the co-pending application, the controller sections inside each of the transmission section and receiving section recognize the variation of the bit rate. However, another central controller that is costly needs to be housed therein. This patent application further discloses some drawbacks in that the information on the bit rate is relied on the data DC level value only, thereby resulting in errors in recognizing the bit rate if there is any variation in the temperature within the system.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a self-healing bit rate transducer capable of maintaining the bit rate in an optical network. More particularly, the present invention
5 relates to a transducer capable of dynamically compensate for external environmental elements, particularly to the variation of temperature.

Accoridngly, there is provided an optical transmission system, which includes a demultiplexer for demultiplexing optical signals into different wavelength channels; a
10 plurality of bit rate receivers coupled to the output of the demultiplexing means for converting the demultiplexed optical signals into the corresponding electrical signals and for generating a bit-rate error signal, the bit rate receiver having a sensing means for generating a temperature reference signal; a detecting section coupled to the output of said demultiplexer for generating a signal indicative of the bit rate of the optical signals
15 outputted therefrom; and, a controller for comparing the bit rate detected by the detecting section with a predetermined data to generate a control signal that is used to adjust the bit rate of the respective bit rate receiver.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating the OXR device using an electric switch according to an embodiment of the conventional system; and,

Fig. 2 is a block diagram illustrating the OXR device using an electric switch according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In the following description, for purposes of explanation rather than limitation, specific details are set forth such as the particular architecture, interfaces, techniques, etc., in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. However, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced in other embodiments, which depart from these specific details. For the purpose of simplicity and clarity, detailed descriptions of well-known devices, circuits, and methods are omitted so as not to obscure the description of the present invention with unnecessary detail.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram illustrating an optical cross-connection (OXR) device using an electric switch according to the embodiment of the present invention. The optical transmission system includes a DMUX 110 for demultiplexing inputted optical signals into different channels and outputting the demultiplexed signals; a plurality of bit rate independent clock and data recover (BICDR) receivers 120 for transducing the optical signals outputted from the DMUX 110 into respective electric signals; an N x N cross-connection switch 130 for pass-routing and outputting electric signals outputted from the BICDR receivers 120; a plurality of BICDR transmitters 140 for transducing electric signals outputted from each port of the cross-connection switch 130 into optical signals; and a multiplexer 150 for multiplexing the signals applied from the BICDR transmitters 140 and outputting the same as optical signals. The function of BICDR receiver 120 is to convert optical input signal into the corresponding electrical signal while recovering a clock and data during the conversion process. The recovered clock and data are applied to the cross-connection switch 130. At the same time, if the bit rate of the converted electrical signal is not consistent with the bit rate that is pre-set to each BICDR receiver 120, each BICDR 120 outputs a bit-rate error signal, namely a PLL loss of lock signal. This technique is disclosed in the co-pending US application serial number 09/621,009, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

*MB⁰
a1* In the embodiment, each BICDR receiver 120 includes a temperature sensing section 121 for sensing the temperature to provide temperature sending signals; a first DC level value detecting section 162 for detecting a DC level value representing each bit rate of

optical signals outputted from the DEMUX 10; and, a control device 180 for receiving the temperature sensing signals from the temperature sensing section 121 of the corresponding BICDR receiver, for receiving a DC level value representing each bit rate of the optical signal outputted from the DEMUX 110, and for receiving a bit-rate error signal from each BICDR receiver 120. Here, the optical signals supplied to the BICDR receivers 120 and the first DC level value detecting-section 162 from the DMUX 110 are the same.

The bit rate transducer according to the present invention further includes a first parallel to serial converter (hereinafter, referred to as "a first PSC") 122 for converting the PLL signals representing the bit rate improper signal outputted from the BICRD receivers 120 into serial signals, and a first serial to parallel converter (hereinafter, referred to as "a first SPC") 182 for supplying the serial signals outputted from the first PSC 122 to a CPU 181 of the control device 180 as parallel signals. The control device 180 further includes a first analog-to-digital converter (hereinafter, referred to as "a first ADC") 184 for converting the temperature sensing signals supplied from the temperature sensing section 121 of the BICDR receivers 120 into the corresponding digital signals, and a second analog-to-digital converter (hereinafter, referred to as "a second ADC") 186 for converting the DC level value supplied from the DC level detecting section 162 to the control device 180 as digital signals.

Now, the operation of the bit-rate transducer according to the present invention will now be described in detail.

According to the embodiment of the present invention, the inputted optical signals
 passing through the DMUX 110 are demultiplexed into different channels according to the
 wavelengths. The optical signals outputted from the DMUX are transduced into the
 5 corresponding electric signals. At this time, a clock and data are recovered from the
 demultiplexed signals according to the bit rate of the converted electric signals and
 transmitted to the respective BICDR receivers 120. Subsequently, the BICDR receivers
 120 output a bit-rate error signal, i.e., a PLL signal, if current bit rate is not consistent with
 a pre-set bit rate. The first PSC 122 converts the PLL signals received from each BICDR
 10 receiver 120 and convert them in form of a serial signal to be supplied to the first SPC 182
 of the control device 180. In response, the first SPC 182 converts the output signals of the
 first PSC 122 in a serial type to parallel signals, then forwards the converted parallel signals
 to the CPU 181 of the control device 180.

15 Meanwhile, the bit rate generating section 160 including a first DC level value
 detecting section 162 detects the signals outputted from the DMUX 110 and supplies a DC
 level value representing each bit rate of the output signals of the DMUX 110 to the second
 ADC 186 of the controller 180. At the same time, The temperature value sensed by the
 temperature sensing-section 121 is supplied to the CPU 180 via the second ADC 184.
 20 Here, the sensed temperature values are ranged to be 0.5V – 4V when amplified 15 times
 by an amplifier (not shown). That is, the first ADC 184 converts the amplified temperature
 values into the corresponding digital values and forwards them to the CPU 181. Upon

receiving three different values via the first SPC 182, the first ADC 184, and the second ADC 186, the CPU 181 compares the received information to a predetermined look up value. In the controller 180, a predetermined look up table (not shown) of a plurality of temperature list with the corresponding DC level values is provided. Hence, upon detecting
5 a bit-rate error signals from one of the BICDR receiver 120, the CPU 181 determines the temperature of the same BICDR receiver 120 based on the temperature information received therein via the first ADC 184. Thereafter, the CPU 181 retrieves the corresponding DC level representing bit rate from the lookup table stored therein and compares the retrieved DC level to the DC level received from the first DC level detecting
10 section 162 via the second ADC 186. If they do not match, the CPU 181 generates a control signal to the same BICDR receiver 120 to adjust the bit rate accordingly.

Accordingly, the control device 181 supplies the controlled signal to the respective BICDR receivers 120, and transduces the same to an operational bit rate of the BICDR
15 receiver 120, thereby transducing the bit rate by itself according to variation of the temperature for an active response to external environment.

The above description exemplified an employment of the bit rate transducer according to the present invention in the receiving section of the optical transmission
20 system. However, it should be noted that the bit rate transducer may be employed in the transmitting section, or both in the receiving and transmitting sections.

As shown in Fig. 2, the bit rate transducer employed in the transmitting section according to the present invention includes the same elements as those employed in the receiving section. To be specific, the bit rate transducer of the transmitting section according to the present invention includes a plurality of BICDR transmitters 140, a second DC level value detecting section 170 included in the bit rate recognizing signal generating section 172, a second PSC 142, a second SPC 183, and a third and a fourth ADC 185, 187. The BICDR transmitters 140 includes a temperature sensing section 141 for generating signals indicating the temperature. The second DC level value detecting section 170 receives optical signals from the multiplexer 150, and detects a DC level value to supply a bit rate recognizing signal to the control device 180. The control device 180 receives the DC level value from the second level value detecting section 170, receives a temperature sensing signal from the temperature sensing section 141 of the corresponding BICDR transmitter 140, and compares the same with the bit rate according to the temperature stored in the memory. The control device 180 then recognizes the corresponding bit rate, and transduces the variation of the bit rate to an operational bit rate of the corresponding BICDR transmitter 140. The second PSC 142 included in the bit rate transducer according to the present invention converts the parallel signals to serial signals, while the second SPC 183 converts the serial signals to parallel signals. The third and the fourth ADC 185, 187 included in the bit rate transducer according to the present invention convert analog signals to digital signals. Therefore, the construction and operation of the transmitting section are essentially same as that described above with respect to the receiving section. Thus, the description of the function and operation of components within the transmitting section is

omitted to avoid redundancy.

In summary, the bit rate transducer according to the present invention serves to enhance a reliability of an optical transmission system by actively responding to variation of external environment, particularly to variation of temperature. As described above, the present invention provides a more accurate transduction of a bit rate than the conventional bit rate transducer irrespective of external environment such as temperature by recognizing a bit-rate error signal and the temperature.

While the invention has been shown and described with reference to a certain preferred embodiment thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.